THE Pre-eminence AND PEDIGREE OF PARLIAMENT.

By *James Howell*, Esquire.

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Printed for *Dorman Newman*, and *Tho. Cockeril*, at the *Kings-Arms* in the *Poultrey*, and at the *Atlas* in *Cornhil*, 1677.

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THE PRE-EMINENCE OF PARLIAMENT.

Sectio Prima.

I Am a free-born *Subject* of the Realm of *England*; whereby I claim as my native Inheritance, an undoubted right, propriety, and portion in the Laws of the Land; And this diſtinguiſheth me from a *Slave*. I claim alſo an intereſt and common right in the High National Court of *Parliament*, and in the Power, the Priviledges and Jurisdiction thereof, which I put in equal balance with the *Laws*, in regard it is the *Fountain whence they ſpring*; And this I hold alſo to be a principal part of my Birth-right: which great Council I honour, reſpect, value, and love in as high a degree as can be; as being the *Bulwark of our Liberties, the main boundary and bank which keeps us from ſlavery, from the inundations of tyrannical Rules, and unbounded Will-government*. And I hold my ſelf obliged in a tye of indiſpenſable obedience, to conform and ſubmit my ſelf to whatſoever ſhall be tranſacted, concluded and conſtituted by its Authority in

in *Church* or *State*; whether it be by making, enlarging, altering, diminiſhing, diſannulling, repealing, or reviving of any Law, Statute, Act, or Ordinance whatſoever, either touching matters Eccleſiaſtical, Civil, Common, Capital, Criminal, Martial, Maritime, Municipal, or any other; of all which, the tranſcendent and uncontroulable Jurisdiction of that Court is capable to take cognizance.

Amongſt the three things which the *Athenian* Captain thank'd the gods for, one was, That he was born a *Grecian*, and not a *Barbarian*. For ſuch was the vanity of the *Greeks*, and after them, of the *Romans*, in the flouriſh of their Monarchy, to arrogate all civility to themſelves, and to term all the world beſides *Barbarians*: So I may ſay, to have cauſe to rejoyce, that I was born a vaſſal to the Crown of *England*; that I was born under ſo well moulded and tempered a Government, which endows the Subject with ſuch Liberties and Infranchiſements that bear up his natural courage, and keep him ſtill in heart; ſuch Liberties that fence and ſecure him eternally from the gripes and tallons of *Tyranny*: And all this may be imputed to the Authority and Wiſdom of this High Court of *Parliament*, wherein there is ſuch a rare co-ordination of power (though the Soveraignty remain ſtill entire, and untransferable in the perſon of the Prince) there is, I ſay, ſuch a wholſom mixture 'twixt *Monarchy*, *Optimacy*, and *Democracy*; 'twixt Prince, Peers, and Communalty, during the time of conſultation, that of ſo many diſtinct parts, by a rare co-operation and unanimity, they make but one *Body Politick*, (like that Sheaf of Arrows in the Emblem) one entire concentrical piece; and the Reſults of their deliberations, but as ſo many harmonious diapaſons ariſing from different ſtrings. And

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what greater immunity and happineſs can there be to a People, than to be liable to no Laws but what they make themſelves? To be ſubject to no Contribution, Aſſeſſement, or any pecuniar levyy whatſoever, but what they Vote, and voluntarily yield unto themſelves: For in this compacted *Politic Body*, there be all degrees of people repreſented; both the Mechanick, Tradeſman, Merchant, and Yeoman, have their incluſive Vote, as well as the Gentry, in the perſons of their Truſtees, their Knights and Burgeſſes, in paſſing of all things. Nor is this Soveraign Surintendent Council an Epitome of this Kingdom only, but it may be ſaid to have a repreſentation of the whole Univerſe; as I heard a fluent well-worded *Knight* deliver the laſt *Parliament*; who compared the beautiful compoſure of that High Court, to the great Work of God, the World it ſelf: The King is as the Sun, the Nobles the fixed Stars, the Itinerant Judges and other Officers (that go upon Meſſages 'twixt both Houſes) to the Planets; the Clergy to the Element of fire; the Commons, to the ſolid *Body* of Earth, and the reſt of the Elements. And to purſue this compariſon a little farther; as the heavenly Bodies, when three of them meet in *Conjunction*, do uſe to produce ſome admirable effects in the Elementary World: So when theſe *three States* convene and aſſemble in one ſolemn great *Junta*, ſome notable and extraordinary things are brought forth, tending to the welfare of the whole Kingdom, our *Microcoſm*.

HE that is never ſo little verſed in the Annals of this Iſle, will find that it hath been her fate to be four times *conquered*. I exclude the *Scot*; for the ſcituation of his Countrey, and the quality of the Clime

Clime, hath been ſuch an advantage and ſecurity to him, that neither the *Roman Eagles* would flye thither for fear of Freezing their Wings; nor any other nation attempt the Work.

Theſe ſo many Conqueſts muſt needs bring with them many tumblings and toſſings, many diſturbances and changes in Government; yet I have obſerved, that notwithſtanding theſe tumblings, it retained ſtill the form of a *Monarchy*, and ſomething there was always that had Analogy with the great Aſſembly the *Parliament*.

The firſt Conqueſt I find was made by *Claudius Cæſar*; at which time (as ſome well obſerve) the *Roman Enſigns*, and the *Standard of Chriſt* came in together. It is well known what Laws the *Roman* had; He had his *Comitia*, which bore a reſemblance with our Convention in *Parliament*; the place of their meeting was called *Prætorium*, and the Laws which they enacted, *Plebeſcita*

The *Saxon* Conqueſt ſucceeded next, which were the *Engliſh*, there being no name in *Welſh* or *Iriſh* for an *Engliſhman*, but *Saxon*, to this day. They governed by *Parliament*, though it were under other names; as *Michel Sinoth*, *Michel Gemote*, and *Witenage Mote*.

There are Records above a thouſand years old, of theſe *Parliaments*, in the Reigns of King *Ina*, *Offa*, *Ethelbert*, and the reſt of the ſeven Kings during the *Heptarchy*. the *Britiſh* Kings alſo, who retain'd a great while ſome part of the Iſle unconquered, governed and made Laws by a kind of *Parliamentary* way; witneſs the famous Laws of Prince *Howel*, called *Howel Dha*, (the good Prince *Howel*) whereof there are yet extant ſome Welſh Records. *Parliaments* were alſo

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uſed after the *Heptarchy* by King *Kenulphus*, *Alphred*, and others; witneſs that renowned *Parliament* held at *Grately* by King *Athelſtan*.

The third Conqueſt was by the *Danes*, and they govern'd alſo by ſuch general Aſſemblies, (as they do to this day) witneſs that great and ſo much celebrated *Parliament* held by that mighty Monarch *Canutus*, who was King of *England*, *Denmark*, *Norway*, and other Regions, 150 years before the compiling of *Magna Charta*; and this the learned in the Laws do hold to be one of the ſpecial'ſt, and moſt authentick pieces of Antiquity we have extant. *Edward* the Confeſſor made all his Laws thus, (and he was a great *Legiſlator*), which the *Norman* Conqueror (who liking none of his Sons, made God Almighty his heir, bequeathing unto him this Iſland for a Legacy) did ratifie and eſtabliſh, and digeſted them into one entire methodical Syſtem, which being violated by *Rufus*, (who came to ſuch a diſaſtrous end, as to be ſhot to death in lieu of a *Buck* for his ſacrileges) were reſtor'd by *Henry* the firſt, and ſo they continued in force till King *John*, whoſe Reign is renowned for firſt confirming *Magna Charta*, the foundation of our Liberties ever ſince. Which may be compar'd to divers *Outlandiſh Graffs ſet upon our Engliſh ſtock*; *or to a Poſie of ſundry fragrant flowers*; for the choiceſt of the *Britiſh*, the *Roman*, *Saxon*, *Daniſh*, and *Norman* Laws, being cull'd and pick'd out, and gathered as it were into one bundle, out of them the foreſaid *Grand Charter* was extracted: And the eſtabliſhment of this great Charter was the work of a *Parliament*.

Nor are the Laws of *this Iſland* only, and the freedom of the Subject, conſerved by *Parliament*; but all the beſt policed Countreys of *Europe* have the like

The *Germans* have their *Diets*, the *Danes* and *Swedes* their *Riicks Dachs*; the *Spaniard* calls his *Parliament*, *Las Cortes*, and the *French* have (or ſhould have at leaſt) their *Aſſembly of three States*, though it be grown now in a manner obſolete, becauſe the Authority thereof was (by accident) devolv'd to the *King*. And very remarkable it is, how this happened; for when the *Engliſh* had taken ſuch large footing in moſt parts of *France*, having advanced as far as *Orleans*, and driven their then King *Charles* the ſeventh to *Bourges* in *Berry*; the *Aſſembly of the three States* in theſe preſſures, being not able to meet after the uſual manner in full *Parliament*, becauſe the Countrey was unpaſſable, the enemy having made ſuch firm invaſions up and down through the very bowels of the Kingdom; that power which formerly was inherent in the *Parliamentary Aſſembly*, of making Laws, of aſſeſſing the Subject with Taxes, ſubſidiary levies, and other impoſitions, was tranſmitted to the *King* during the War; which continuing many years, that intruſted power by length of time grew as it were habitual in him, and could never after be re-aſſumed and taken from him; ſo that ever ſince, his *Edicts* countervail *Acts* of *Parliament*: And that which made the buſineſs more feaſable for the *King*, was, that the burthen fell moſt upon the Communalty, (the Clergy and Nobility not feeling the weight of it) who were willing to ſee the *Peaſeant* pull'd down a little, becauſe not many years before in that notable Rebellion, call'd *La Jaquerie, de Beauvoſin*, which was ſuppreſſed by *Charles* the *Wiſe*; the common people put themſelves boldly in Arms againſt the Nobility and Gentry, to leſſen their power. Add hereunto as an advantage to the work, that the next ſucceeding King *Lewis the Eleventh*,

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was a close cunning Prince, and could well tell how to play his game, and draw water to his own Mill; For amongst all the rest, he was said to be the first that put the Kings of *France*, *hors de page*, out of their minority, or from being *Pages* any more, though thereby he brought the poor *Peasants* to be worse than *Lacquies*.

With the fall, or at least the discountenance of that usual *Parliamentary Assembly* of the *three States*, the liberty of the *French* Nation utterly fell; the poor *Roturier* and Vineyard-man, with the rest of the Yeomanry, being reduced ever since to such an abject *asinin* condition, that *they serve but as sponges for the King to squeeze when he list*. Nevertheless, as that *King* hath an advantage hereby one way, to *Monarchize* more absolutely, and never to want money, but to *ballast his Purse* when he will: so there is another mighty inconvenience ariseth to him and his whole Kingdom another way; for this illegal peeling of the poor *Peasant* hath so dejected him, and cowed his native courage so much by the sense of poverty (*which brings along with it a narrowness of soul*) that he is little useful for the War: which puts the *French* King to make other Nations mercenary to him, to fill up his *Infantry*; Insomuch, that the Kingdom of *France* may be not unfitly compared to a body that hath all its blood drawn up into the Arms, Breast and Back, and scarce any left from the Girdle downwards, to cherish and bear up the lower parts, and keep them from starving.

All this seriously considered, there cannot be a more proper and pregnant example than this of our *next Neighbours*, to prove how infinitely necessary the *Parliament* is, to assert, to prop up, and preserve the Publick Li-

berty, and National Rights of a people, with the incolumity and welfare of a Countrey.

Nor doth the *Subject* only reap benefit thus by *Parliament*, but the *Prince* (if it be well conſider'd) hath equal advantage thereby; It rendreth him a King of *free* and *able* men, which is far more glorious than to be a King of *Slaves*, *Beggars*, and *Bankrupts*; Men that by their freedom, and competency of wealth, are kept ſtill in heart to do him ſervice againſt any forrain force. And it is a true maxime in all States, that 'tis leſs danger and diſhonour for the Prince to be poor, than his people: Rich Subjects can make their King rich when they pleaſe; if he gain their hearts, he will quickly get their purſes. *Parliament* increaſeth love and good intelligence twixt him and his people; it acquaints him with the reality of things, and with the true ſtate and diſeaſes of his Kingdom; it brings him to the knowledg of his better ſort of Subjects, and of their abilities, which he may employ accordingly upon all occaſions; it provides for his Royal Iſſue, pays his debts, finds means to fill his Coffers: and it is no ill obſervation, The *Parliamentary-money* (the *great Aid*) have proſpered beſt with the Kings of *England*; it exceedingly raiſeth his repute abroad, and enableth him to keep his *foes in fear*, *his Subjects in awe*, *his Neighbours and Confederates in ſecurity*, the three main things which go to aggrandize a Prince, and render him glorious. In ſum, it is the *Parliament* that ſupports, and bears up the honour of his Crown, and ſettles his Throne in ſafety, which is the chief end of all their conſultations: For whoſoever is entruſted to be a Member of this High Court, carrieth with him a double capacity; he ſits there as a *Patriot*, and as a *Subject*: As he is the one, the Countrey is his object, his duty being

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to vindicate the Publick Liberty, to make wholſome Laws, to put his hand to the pump, and ſtop the leaks of the great Veſſel of the State; to pry into, and puniſh corruption and oppreſſion; to improve and advance Trade; to have the grievances of the place he ſerves for redreſſed, and caſt about how to find ſomething that may tend to the advantage of it.

But he muſt not forget that he ſits there alſo as a *Subject*, and according to that capacity, he muſt apply himſelf to do his *Soveraigns* buſineſs, to provide not only for his *publick*, but his *perſonal* wants; to bear up the luſter and glory of his *Court*; to conſider what occaſions of extraordinary expences he may have, by encreaſe of Royal Iſſue, or maintenance of any of them abroad; to enable him to vindicate any affront or indignity that might be offered to his Perſon, Crown, or Dignity, by any *Foreign* State or Kingdom; to conſult what may enlarge his *honour*, *contentment*, and *pleaſure*. And as the *French Tacitus* (*Comines*) hath it, The *Engliſh* Nation was uſed to be more forward and zealous in this particular than any other; according to that ancient eloquent ſpeech of a great *Lawyer*, *Domus Regis vigilia defendit omnium, otium illius labor omnium, deliciæ illius induſtria omnium, vacatio illius occupatio omnium, ſalus illius periculum omnium, honor illius objectum omnium.* Every one ſhould ſtand Centinel to defend the Kings Houſes; his *ſafety* ſhould be the *danger* of all, his *pleaſures* the *induſtry* of all, his *eaſe* ſhould be the *labour* of all, his *honour* the *object* of all.

Out of theſe premiſſes this Concluſion may be eaſily deduced, that, *The principal Fountain whence the King derives his happineſs and ſafety, is his Parliament*; It is that great Conduit-Pipe which conveighs unto him his

his peoples bounty and gratitude; the trueſt Looking-Glaſs wherein he diſcerns their loves; now *the Subjects love hath been always accounted the prime Cittadel of a Prince.* In his *Parliament* he appears as the Sun in the Meridian, in the altitude of his glory, *in his higheſt State Royal*, as the Law tells us.

Therefore whoſoever is averſe or diſaffected to this Soveraign Law-making Court, cannot have his heart well planted within him: He can be neither good *Subject*, nor good *Patriot*; and therefore unworthy to breathe *Engliſh* air, or have any benefit, advantage, or protection from the Laws.

Sectio Secundo.

BY that which hath been ſpoken, *which is the language of my heart*, I hope no indifferent Judicious Reader will doubt of the cordial affection, of the high reſpects and due reverence I bear to *Parliament*, as being the wholſomeſt conſtitution, (and done by the higheſt and happieſt reach of policy) that ever was eſtabliſhed in this *Iſland*, to perpetuate the happineſs thereof: Therefore I muſt tell that *Gentleman*, who was Author of a Book entituled *The Popiſh Royal Favourite*, (lately Printed and expoſed to the world) that he offers me very hard meaſure; nay, he doth me apparant wrong, to term me therein, *No friend to Parliament, and a Malignant*; A character, which as I *deſerve* it not, ſo I *diſdain* it.

For the firſt part of his charge, I would have him know, that I am as much a *friend, and as real an affectionate humble ſervant and votary* to the *Parliament*, as poſſibly he can be; and will live and die with theſe affections about me: And I could wiſh, that he were Secretary of my thoughts a while; or if I may take the boldneſs

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to apply that compariſon His late Majeſty uſed in a famous ſpeech to one of his *Parliaments*, I could wiſh there were a Cryſtal Window in my Breſt, through which the World might eſpy the inward motions and palpitations of my heart; then would he be certified of the ſincerity of this Proteſtation.

For the ſecond part of his charge, to be a *Malignant*, I muſt confeſs to have ſome *Malignity* that lurks within me, much againſt my will; but it is no *malignity* of *mind*, it is amongſt the *humours*, not in my *intellectuals*. And I believe, there is no natural man, let him have his *humours* never ſo well balanced, but hath ſome of this *malignity* reigning within him; For as long as we are compoſed of the four *Elements*, whence theſe *humors* are derived, and with whom they ſymbolize in qualities; which *Elements* the Philoſophers hold to be in a reſtleſs contention amongſt themſelves (and the Stoick thought that the world ſubſiſted by this innated mutual ſtrife); as long, I ſay, as the four *humors*, in imitation of their principles (the *Elements*) are in perpetual reluctancy, and combate for prædominancy, there muſt be ſome *malignity* lodg'd within us, as aduſted choler, and the like; whereof I had late experience, in a dangerous fit of ſickneſs it pleaſed God to lay upon me, which the Phyſicians told me proceeded from the *malignant* hypocondriacal effects of *Melancholy*; having been ſo long in this *Saturnine* black condition of cloſe impriſonment, and buried alive between the Walls of this fatal *Fleet*. Theſe kinds of *malignities*, I confeſs are very rife in me, and they are not only incident, but connatural to every man according to his complexion: And were it not for this inceſſant ſtrugling and enmity amongſt the *humors* for maſtery, which produceth ſuch *malignant* effects in us, our ſouls would be loth ever to depart from our bodies, or to abandon this manſion of clay. Now

Now what *malignity* my *Accuſer* means, I know not; if he means *malignity of ſpirit*, as ſome antipathy or ill impreſſion upon the mind, ariſing from diſaffection, hatred, or rancor, with a deſire of ſome deſtructive revenge, he is mightily deceiv'd in me; I *malign* or hate no Creature that ever God made, but the *Devil*, who is the Author of all *malignity*; and therefore is moſt commonly called in French, *le Malin Aſprit*, the *malignant ſpirit*. Every night before I go to bed, I have the grace, I thank God for it, to forgive all the world, and not to harbour, or let rooſt in my boſom the leaſt *malignant* thought; yet none can deny, but the aſperſions which this my *Accuſer* caſts upon me, were enough to make me a *malignant* towards him; yet it could never have the power to do it: For I have prevail'd with my ſelf to forgive him this his wrong cenſure of me, iſſuing rather from his *not-knowledg* of me, than from *malice*; for we never mingled ſpeech, or ſaw one another in our lives, to my remembrance: which makes me wonder the more, that a Profeſſor of the *Law*, as he is, ſhould pronounce ſuch a poſitive ſentence againſt me ſo ſlightly. But methinks I over-hear him ſay, That the precedent diſcourſe of Parliament is involv'd in Generals; and the Tropick Axiome tells us, that *Dolus verſatur in univerſalibus*, there is double dealing in Univerſals: His meaning is, that I am no friend to this preſent Parliament, (though he ſpeaks in the Plural number Parliaments) and conſequently, he concludes me a *Malignant*: Therein, I muſt tell him alſo, that I am traduc'd; and I am confident it will be never prov'd againſt me, from any *actions*, *words*, or *letters*, (though divers of mine have been intercepted) or any other miſdemeanor, though ſome things are faſher'd upon me which never dropt from my quill. Alas, how unworthy and uncapable am I to cenſure the proceedings

ceedings of that great *Senate*, that high *Synedrion*, wherein the wisdom of the whole State is epitomized? It were a presumption in me, of the highest nature that could be: It is enough for me to pray for the prosperous success of their consultations: And as I hold it my *duty*, so I have good *reason* so to do, in regard I am to have my share in the happiness; And could the utmost of my poor endeavours, by any ministerial humble office (and sometimes the meanest *Boat swain* may help to preserve the Ship from sinking) be so happy, as to contribute any thing to advance that great work (which I am in despair to do, while I am thus under *Hatches* in this *Fleet*), I would esteem it the greatest honour that possibly could befall me; as I hold it now to be my greatest disaster, to have faln so heavily under an affliction of this nature, & to be made a sacrifice to *publick fame*, than which there is no other proof, nor *that* yet urg'd against me, or any thing else produc'd after so long, so long captivity, which hath brought me to such a low ebb, and put me so far behind in the course of my poor fortunes, and indeed more than half undone me. For although my whole life (since I was left to myself to *swim*, as they say, *without bladders*) has been nothing else but a continued succession of crosses, and that there are but few red letters found (God wot) in the Almanack of my Age (for which I account not my self a whit the less *happy*); yet This cross has carried with it a greater weight, it hath been of a larger extent, longer continuance, and lighted heavier upon me than any other; and as I have *present patience* to bear it, so I hope for *subsequent grace* to make use of it accordingly, that my old Motto may be still confirmed, παθήματα, μαθήματα.

HE produceth my attestation for some passages in *Spain*, at His Majesties being there; and he quotes

me right, which obligeth me to him: And I hope all his quotations, wherein he is ſo extraordinarily copious and elaborate in all his works, are ſo; yet I muſt tell him, that thoſe interchangeable Letters which paſſed between His Majeſty and the *Pope*, which were originally couch'd in *Latin*, the language wherein all Nations treat with *Rome*, and the *Empire* with all the Princes thereof; thoſe Letters, I ſay, are adulterated in many places, which I impute not to him, but to the *French Chronicler*, from whom he took them in truſt. The truth of that buſineſs is this; The world knows there was a tedious treaty of an Alliance 'twixt the Infanta *Dona Maria* (who now is *Empreſs*) and His Majeſty, which in regard of the ſlow affected pace of the *Spaniard*, laſted about ten years, as that in *Henry* the ſeventh's time, 'twixt Prince *Arthur* and (afterwards) Queen *Katharine*, was ſpun out above *ſeven*: To quicken, or rather to *conſummate* the work; His Majeſty made that adventurous journey through the whole Continent of *France*, into *Spain*; which voyage, though there was a great deal of gallantry in it, (whereof all poſterity will ring, until it turn at laſt to a *Romance*) yet it prov'd the bane of the buſineſs, which 'tis not the Errand of ſo poor a Pamphlet as this to unfold. His Majeſty being there arriv'd, the ignorant common people cryed out, the *Prince* of of *Wales* came thither to make himſelf a Chriſtian. The *Pope* writ to the *Inquiſitor General*, and others, to uſe all induſtry they could to reduce him to the *Roman* Religion; And one of *Olivares* firſt complements to him, was, *That he doubted not but that His Highneſs came thither to change his Religion*: whereunto he made a ſhort anſwer, *That He came not thither for a Religion, but for a Wife.* There were extraordinary proceſſions made, and other artifices us'd by protraction of things, to make him ſtay there of purpoſe

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till the Spring following, to work upon him the better: And the *Infanta* her ſelf deſir'd him (which was eſteem'd the greateſt favour he received from her all the while) to viſit the *Nun of Carion*; hoping that the ſaid Nun, who was ſo much cryed up for miracles, might have wrought one upon him; but her Art failed her: nor was His Highneſs ſo weak a ſubject to work upon, according to His late Majeſties ſpeech to Doctor *Mawe* and *Wren*: who when they came to kiſs his hands, before they went to *Spain* to attend the Prince their Maſter, *He wiſhed them to have a care of* Buckingham; *as touching his Son* Charles, *he apprehended no fear at all of him*; *for he knew him to be ſo well grounded a* Proteſtant, *that nothing could ſhake him in his Religion.* The *Arabian* Proverb is, That the Sun never ſoils in his paſſage, though his beams reverberate never ſo ſtrongly, and dwell never ſo long upon the Myry lake of *Mæotis*, the black Turf'd Moors of *Holland*, the Aguiſh Wooſe of *Kent* and *Eſſex*, or any other place, be it never ſo dirty: Though *Spain* be a hot Countrey, yet one may paſs and repaſs through the very Center of it, and never be Sun-burnt, if he carry with him a *Bongrace*, and ſuch a one His Majeſty had.

Well, after His Majeſties arrival to *Madrid*, the treaty of Marriage went on ſtill (though he told them at his firſt coming, that he came not thither like an *Ambaſſadour*, to treat of Marriage; but as a *Prince*, to fetch home a Wife); and in regard they were of different Religions, it could not be done without a diſpenſation from the *Pope*, and the *Pope* would grant none, unleſs ſome Capitulations were ſtipulated in favour of the Romiſh Catholicks in *England* (the ſame in ſubſtance were agreed on with *France*). Well, when the diſpenſation came, which was negotiated ſolely by the

King of *Spain*'s Ministers; because His Majesty would have as little to do as might be with *Rome*, Pope *Gregory* the fifteenth, who died a little after, sent His Majesty a Letter, which was delivered by the *Nuncio*, whereof an answer was sent a while after: Which Letters were imprinted and exposed to the view of the world, because His Majesty would not have people whisper, that the business was carried in a clandestine manner. And truly, besides this, I do not know of any Letter, or Message, or Complement, that ever pass'd 'twixt His Majesty and the *Pope*, afore or after; some addresses peradventure might be made to the Cardinals, to whom the drawing of those Matrimonial dispatches was referred, to quicken the work; but this was only by way of civil Negotiation.

Now touching that *responsory* Letter from His Majesty, it was no other than a Complement in the severest interpretation; and such formalities pass 'twixt the Crown of *England* and the great *Turk*, and divers Heathen Princes. The *Pope* writ first, and no man can deny, but by all Moral rules, and in common humane civility, His Majesty was bound to answer it, specially considering how punctual they are in those Countries to correspond in this kind, how exact they are in repairing visits, and the performance of such Ceremonies: And had this compliance been omitted, it might have made very ill impressions, as the posture of things stood then; for it had prejudiced the great work in hand, I mean the *Match*, which was then in the heat and height of agitation: His Majesties person was there engag'd, and so it was no time to give the least offence. They that are never so little vers'd in business abroad, do know that there must be addresses, compliances, and formalities of this nature (according to the *Italian* Proverb, *That one must some-*

ſometimes light a candle to the Devil) us'd in the carriage of matters of State, as this great buſineſs was, whereon the eyes of all Chriſtendom were ſo greedily fixt; a buſineſs which was like to bring with it ſuch an univerſal good, as the reſtitution of the *Palatinate*, the quenching of thoſe hideous fires in *Germany*, and the eſtabliſhing of a peace through all the Chriſtian World.

I hope none will take offence, that in this particular which comes within the compaſs of my knowledg, being upon the Stage when this Scene was acted, I do this right to the *King* my Maſter, in diſplaying the *Truth*, and putting her forth in her own colours: a rare thing in theſe days.

TOuching the *Vocal Foreſt*, an Allegorical Diſcourſe, that goes abroad under my name, a good while before the beginning of this *Parliament*, which this *Gentleman* cites (and that very faithfully) I underſtand there be ſome that mutter at certain paſſages therein, by putting ill gloſſes upon the Text, and taking with the *left* hand, what I offer with the *right*: (Nor is it a wonder for Trees which lie open, and ſtand expoſed to all weathers, to be nipt) But I deſire this favour, which in *common* juſtice I am ſure in the Court of *Chancery* cannot be denied me, it being the priviledg of every Author, and a received maxim through the World, *Cujus eſt condere, ejus eſt interpretari*; I ſay, I crave this favour, to have leave to expound my own Text, and I doubt not then but to rectifie any one in his opinion of me, and that in lieu of the *Plumbs which I give him from thoſe Trees, he will not throw the ſtones at me.*

Moreover, I deſire thoſe that are over-critical Cenſurers of that Piece, to know, that as in Divinity it is a rule, *Scriptura parabolica non eſt argumentativa*; ſo it is

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in all other kind of knowledg. *Parables* (whereof that Diſcourſe is compoſed) *though preſſed never ſo hard, prove nothing.* There is another *Rule* alſo, That *Parables* muſt be gently uſed, like a Nurſes Breaſt; which if you preſs too hard, you ſhall have *blood* inſtead of *milk.*

But as the Author of the *Vocal Foreſt* thinks he hath done neither his *Country*, nor the *Commonwealth* of *Learning* any prejudice thereby (That *maiden fancy* having received ſo good entertainment and reſpect abroad, as to be tranſlated into divers Languages, and to gain the publick approbation of ſome famous Univerſities); So he makes this humble proteſt unto all the World, that though the deſign of that Diſcourſe was partly *Satyrical* (which peradventure induc'd the Author to ſhrowd it of purpoſe under the ſhadows of *Trees*; and where ſhould Satyrs be, but amongſt Trees?) yet it never entred into his imagination to let fall from him the leaſt thing that might give any offence to the High and Honourable Court of *Parliament*, whereof he had the honour to be once a Member, and hopes he may be thought worthy again: And were he guilty of ſuch an offence, or *piacle* rather, he thinks he ſhould never forgive himſelf, though he were appointed his own Judg. If there occur any paſſage therein, that may admit a hard conſtruction, let the Reader obſerve, That the Author doth not poſitively aſſert, or paſs a judgment on any thing in that Diſcourſe which conſiſts principally of conciſe, curſory narrations, of the choiceſt Occurrences and Criticiſms of State, according as the pulſe of time did beat then: And matters of State, as all other ſublunary things, are ſubject to alterations, contingencies and change, which makes the opinions and minds of men vary accordingly; not one amongſt twenty is the ſame man to day as he was four years ago, in point of judg-

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ment, which turns and alters according to the circumſtance and ſucceſs of things: And it is a true ſaying, whereof we find common experience, *Poſterior dies eſt prioris Magiſter.* The day following is the former days School-maſter. There's another Aphoriſm, *The wiſdom of one day is fooliſhneſs to another*, and 'twill be ſo as long as there is a man left in the World.

I will conclude with this modeſt requeſt to that *Gentleman of the long Robe*; That having unpaſſionately perus'd what I have written in this ſmall *Diſcourſe*, in penning whereof my *Conſcience* guided my *quill* all along as well as my *hand*, he would pleaſe to be ſo charitable and juſt, as to reverſe that harſh ſentence upon me, *To be no Friend to Parliaments, and a Malignant.*

FINIS.